थोक मूल्य सूचकांक

*35. **प्रो० विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा:** क्या **वित्त** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) जून, 1991 में और जून, 1995 में थोक मूल्यों का सूचकांक कितना-कितना था;

(ख) जून, 1991 में और जून, 1995 में खुदरा मूल्यों का सूचकांक कितना-कितना था; और

(ग) महंगाई रोकने में सरकार की असमर्थता के क्या कारण हैं?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा० देबी प्रसाद पाल): (क) और (ख) जून, 1991 और जून, 1995 में औद्योगिक कामगारों के लिए उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक द्वारा निर्धारित थोक मूल्य सूचकांक और खुदरा मूल्य सूचकांक नीचे दर्शाए गए हैं;

	थोक मूल्य सूचकांक (आधार 1981-82)	उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक (आधार 1982)
1991 (जून)	198.4	209
1995 (जून)	292.6	306

(ग) सरकार मुद्रास्फीति की दर को, जो अगस्त, 1991 में लगभग 17% के उच्चतम पर पहुंच गई, अप्रैल, 1993 में 6.7% तक ले आयी। यह गिरावट सरकार की वृहत्-आर्थिक स्थिरीकरण नीति एवं आपूर्ति प्रबन्धन नीतियों का परिणाम थी। तथापि, मुद्रास्फीतिकारी दबाव वर्ष 1993 के अन्त में पुनः बढ़ गए जो मुख्यतः चीनी, कपास, पटसन और मूंगफली जैसे मुख्य उत्पादों में उत्पादन की अधिक गिरावट के कारण थे। अन्य कारक, जो मुद्रास्फीतिकारी दबावों के लिए अंशदायी थे, पिछले चार वर्षों में किसानों को चावल, गेंहू , गन्ने तथा तिलहन के दिए गए न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्यों तथा पिछे वर्ष मुद्रा आपूर्ति में तीव्र वृद्धि थे। मोद्रिक अभिवृद्धि की कमी तथा आवश्यक वस्तुओं के संबंध में और आपूर्ति प्रबन्धन प्रोत्साहनों के पश्चात, मुद्रास्फीति दर जुलाई, 1995 तक घटकर लगभग 8 प्रतिशत हो गई थी और अभी तक उसी स्तर पर बनी हुई है।

Irregularities of Bank of India Finance Limited (BOIFIN)

*36. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government or RBI has received any response from the CBI in the matter of the Special Officer's Report on the irregularities of Bank of India Finance Limited (BOIFIN) which was referred to CBI; and

(b) if not, what steps are being taken to expedite the matter with the CBI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However some clarifications have been sought from CBI.

Proposal to provide free electricity in Rural Areas

*37. SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state whether there is a proposal to provide free electricity to persons in rural areas who are below poverty line on the pattern of Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N.K.P. SALVE): No, Sir. In terms of Section 49 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, tariff for supply of electricity to various categories of consumers is fixed by the State Electricity Boards.

Newspaper Bills Pending with DAVP

*38. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state;

(a) what is the amount of advertisement bills payable by DAVP to the newspapers for the year 1994-95;

(b) the number of bills and amount which are in order;

(c) the number of bills and the amount of arrears outstanding to DAVP for the years 1991, 1992, 1993 and 1994 as on 31.5.95; and

(d) what are the reasons for delaying or for not making the payment for the same yet?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) The number of advertisement bills for the year 1994-95 received as on 23.11.95 are 40003. Of these 34,826 bills amounting to Rs. 7.42 crores have been passed for payment as they were found in order. The remaining bills amounting to Rs. 1.68 crores are at various stages of scrutiny.

(c) and (d) Payment of advertisement bills is a continuous process. Bills found not in order are returned and those found in order are paid. The pendency position as on 31.5.1995 is not available. However, as on 23.11.1995, 13,312 bills pertaining to the years 1991 to 1994 are in the various stages of processing.

Reduction in Excise and Customs Duties

*39. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment about the extent of relief package offered to manufacturers in the Budget proposals for 1995-96 by way or reduction in excise and customs duties which has been passed on by them (manufacturers) to the consumers;

(b) if so, what is Government's assessment and how it compares with the corresponding assessment during 1994-95 and 1993-94;

(c) whether any lack of response on the part of manufacturers to pass on such relief to consumers was noticed, if so, what steps have been taken by Government against defaulting manufacturers; and

(d) what measurers were taken by Government to ensure the reliefs due to the consumers on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (d) The Government have not made any detailed study of the extent to which the reduction in excise and customs duties offered in 1993-94; 1994-95 and 1995-96 budgets have been passed on by the manufacturers to the consumers. However, the names of major commodities and the extent of excise duty reduction in respect thereof announced during the last three budgets are given in the Statement I, II and III respectively (see below). As regards customs duties, broadly speaking, their rates were lowered in respect of inputs used in the manufacture of both consumber goods and industrial goods. The Incidence of customs duties in these cases gets included in the cost of final product.

On the basis of BICP's studies, made on sample basis, in respect of select commodities, it is observed that manufacturers of some of these commodities did not pass on the benefit of duty relief to the consumers. However, there is no legal mechanism to enforce reduction in prices to the extent of reduction in excise duty where there is no price control. At the same time with a view to protect the interest of consumers in respect of pre-packed commodities, the following steps have been taken by the Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution:—

1. Advertisement has been issued in the National Newspapers inviting the attention of the manufacturers of pre-packed commodities to pass on the benefit or recent tax cuts to consumers.